Investigations against Jet Airways

*593. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item 3captioned 'Jet probed for underworld links' which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi on 14th April, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and action proposed to be taken to ground the Jet Airways; and

(c) whether Government propose to hand over the case to the CBI for detailed investigations and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ. HUSSAIN):(a)Yes,Sir.

(b) and (c) The matter is being examined by the Government.

Awareness programme for utilization of ground water resources

*594. SHRI K.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Authority has conducted or propose to conduct a nation-wide awareness programme for judicious and optimum utilization of ground water resources;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what measures the Authority has taken to prevent over-exploitation of ground water resources and for regulation and control of water development in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Authority is conducting nation-wide mass awareness progammes for judicious and optimum utilization of ground water resources. So far, mass awareness programmes at 101 places have been organized by the Authority. These programmes are organized by involving people's representatives, Non Government Organisations, Voluntary Organisations, Schools/Colleges/lnstitutes and local people. During these programmes exhibition on various ground water related issues are organized and various brochures/reports are distributed. The purpose of these awareness

programmes is to educate the public about various problems relating to ground water like decline in its levels, deterioration in quality and saline water ingress and also need for ground water conservation and protection for future.

Water being a State subject, necessary measures to prevent over-exploitation of ground water resources and proper regulation and control of water development are required to be taken by the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a model bill to all the States/ UTs to enable them to enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development. The Central, Ground Water Authority has taken following steps for regulation and control of ground water development:

(i) eleven (11) areas where level of ground water position has become critical have been declared as Notified Areas. In these areas, new tube-wells cannot be constructed without prior approval of the Authority,

(ii) Ground water abstraction structures in the Notified Areas, have been registered,

(iii) Group Housing Societies, Schools/Jnstitutes, Hotels, Industrial Establishments, Farm Houses located in Notified Areas of South and South-West District of NCT Delhi; Municipal Corporation of Faridabad and Ballabgarh, Haryana; Municipal Corporation Ghaziabad, U.P., Gurgaon Town and adjoining industrial areas of Gurgaon district, Haryana have been advised to adopt Roof Top Rain Water Harvesting in their premises.

Border Trade Centres

*595. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Border Trade Centres opened in the North-Eastern Region, State-wise;

(b) the details of financial involvement in opening the Trade Centres; and

(c) the details of programmes initiated for development of Border Trade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. RAMAN SINGH): (a) to (c) There are 35 Border Trade Centres